NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

Approval by both canners and distributors of the proposal to amend the Food and Drugs Act so as to require informative labeling of inferior canned foods was the outstanding feature of the convention of the National Canners Association and allied organizations at Chicago the week of January 21.

Approval of the proposed amendment was voiced in a resolution unanimously adopted by the conference committees of canners and distributors at which were present representatives of the National Wholesale Grocers Association, American Wholesale Grocers Association, National Chain Store Association, National Food Brokers Association, and the National Canners Association. This resolution stated:

"WHEREAS, The Federal Food and Drugs Act has proved an effective statute which in its present form has been of the greatest benefit not only to the public but also to every honest manufacturer and merchant, and

"WHEREAS, For many years we have opposed practically all amendments of this Federal statute believing that such amendments would create confusion and weaken the law and impose unnecessary and costly burdens on consumers, distributors and packers; be it

"RESOLVED, That we oppose any special amendments of the Federal Food and Drugs Act except in the case where such an amendment may be advisable to prevent the sale of foods that are inferior or below standard under deceptively appearing labels, and we therefore heartily endorse in principle the object of the McNary-Mapes canned foods bill now pending in Congress."

Recommendations with respect to the revision of the tariff on canned foods were brought before each of the section meetings, these recommendations being the result of the conference of representatives of state canners associations held at Chicago the week prior to the convention.

The recommendations approved by the tariff conference and the various sections were embodied in the general brief submitted to the House Ways and Means Committee by the National Canners Association on behalf of the entire industry. Where changes were asked, supplemental briefs have been filed by representatives of canners of the individual products or groups of products concerned.

At the meeting of the Beet and Pumpkin Section action was taken to provide separate sections for these products, and officers were elected for each section.

In accordance with the request made at last year's meeting of the Beet and Pumpkin Section, the National Canners Association undertook the collection of statistics on the beet pack, and the results of this survey were announced at the meeting of the section. They are printed elsewhere in this issue of the Information Letter.

Copies of the annual address of President Ben C. Nott and the report of the Secretary and Treasurer, including the financial statement of the Association, are being mailed to all members of the Association.

E. B. Cosgrove, of the Minnesota Valley Canning Co., was elected President of the Association for 1929 to succeed Ben C. Nott. A complete list of the officers and directors elected and of the standing committees appointed by President Cosgrove for the year 1929 follows:

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HEARINGS ON TARIFF REVISION

Representatives of the canning industry appeared before the House Ways and Means Committee on Monday, January 28, to present their recommendations regarding the revision of the tariff rates on canned foods to be embodied in the bill that will come before the special session of Congress which is expected to be called in April.

Frank E. Gorrell, Secretary of the National Canners Association, appeared on behalf of the entire industry and submitted a brief setting out the industry's need for adequate protection, and listing the changes upon which the industry had agreed. Where no recommendations were made in the brief filed by the Association, it was stated that recommendations would be made either by interested individual companies or by organizations representing the products concerned.

Representatives of canners of individual products or groups of products on which changes in rates were requested also appeared before the Committee, including Frank Gerber, Fremont, Mich., beans and peas; John S. Mitchell, Windfall, Ind., Frank M. Shook, Easton, Md., L. Zerillo, Riverbank, Calif., Preston McKinney, San Francisco, Calif., tomato products; Victor H. Elfendahl and Dr. E. D. Clark, Seattle, Wash., salmon; Martin Meeter, Lansing, Ill., sauerkraut; Henry Bird, Rockland, Me., blueberries; L. F. Lambert, Coatesville, Pa., mushrooms; R. J. Peacock, Eastport, Me., sardines, and H. E. MacConaughey, San Francisco, Calif., pineapple.

The brief filed by the National Canners Association on behalf of the industry as a whole is being printed, and a copy will be sent to all members of the Association.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ORDERS FAVORABLE REPORT ON FOOD LAW AMENDMENT

The House Committee on Agriculture, following a hearing on Thursday, January 31, ordered a favorable report on the bill (H. R. 15218) introduced by Representative Mapes, which would amend the Food and Drugs Act so as to require the labeling of inferior canned foods. This is the bill which was endorsed in principle at the meeting of the Conference Committees of the canners and distributors during the annual convention in Chicago.

At the hearing the following brief was submitted by the National Canners Association:

Object of the Proposed Legislation

The purpose of the proposed amendment to the Federal Food and Drugs Act is to protect the interest of the consumer who is now unable to distinguish between canned foods of inferior quality and superior quality by inspection of the label.

The effect of informative labeling in making it possible for the consumer to buy canned foods intelligently will, it is believed, increase the consumption of canned foods, the quality of which is such as to give satisfaction to the consumer, and thus promote the interests of the canner, the distributor and the farmer who grows such foods.

The consumer protection which is the objective of the proposed amendment is sought through an extension of the authority now given to the Secretary of Agriculture by the present food law to enable him to require proper designation and labeling of such canned foods as do not meet the standard of quality which he is authorized to formulate.

Scope of Industry

The canning industry, according to the 1925 census report, has an annual production valued at $634,620,769. It has canning establishments in practically every state of the union.

The output of the canning industry represents 6.1 per cent of the value of all manufactured food products in the United States. When it is realized that the total value of all such food products in the United States in 1925 was $10,418,536,000 and that this includes the products of the meat packers, millers, bakers, sugar refiners and a host of other manufactured food products, it is apparent that the canning industry is one of the large branches of the manufactured food industry.

In the year 1925 the output of the canning industry aggregated 7,579,000,000 pounds of food products and, according to the latest unofficial reports this has grown in 1928 to about 9 billion pounds.

Canning as Related to Farming

The census figures of 1925 show that the canning industry used materials valued at about $525,614,000. According to the best estimates available 40 per cent of this amount or $210,245,000, was paid to the farmer.

The canning industry is one of the most important means of enabling the farmer to successfully market his perishable products and any depression of the canning industry is reflected in the farming industry.

Farmers who grow foods for canning have an opportunity for greater diversification of crops than the single-crop farmer and can employ lands for other crops where there is over-production in staples like cotton, wheat and corn.

Limitations of Present Food Law

The Federal Food and Drugs Act does not require any label on a food package with the exception of a statement of its weight or measure of contents. It does provide, however, that any label, if used, must not be deceptive. In other words, as far as labeling is concerned, it is largely a restrictive rather than a constructive measure.

Owing to the fact that the products of the canning industry are of such nature that it is impossible to define in any enforceable manner the different grades of canned foods which are known to the trade, it is possible under the present Food and Drugs Act to use a label which is not only not informative but is actually deceptive to the consumer without subjecting the user to the penalties of the Act. For instance, an attractively printed or embossed label, with a vignette showing a fresh fruit or vegetable, is likely to give the consumer the idea that the can contains good quality canned food. All that the Enforcement Division of the Department of Agriculture can at present require of canned foods so labeled is that the product is not "filthy, putrid, or decomposed."

The poorest quality of canned foods can be sold under labels such as described and be in competition with the best brands and very often at the same price.

It should be remembered that this bill does not authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to determine and promulgate the different grades of quality of canned foods for the reason that these distinctions between the better grades of canned foods are impossible to define in such manner as to be enforceable by statute.

The Enforcement Division of the Department of Agriculture recognizes this fact, but it is felt by the officials of that Division, by the industry as well as by the distributors of canned foods, that generally enforceable definitions can be written which will distinguish between good and poor quality for all varieties of canned foods.

By requiring plain and conspicuous labeling of all canned foods which, under such definitions, would be classed as poor quality to show that they are poor quality, will not only be a great protection to the consuming public but will increase public confidence in canned foods.

The canning industry, represented by the National Canners Association, is interested in this proposed legislation. The industry was a potent factor in causing the enactment of the Federal food law of 1906, and has actively urged and supported constructive food laws of every kind and character, national and state, during the past quarter of a century. The National Canners Association, in its research laboratories, and in collaboration with other institutions, is seeking by scientific endeavor to constantly improve the products of the industry. This proposed legislation would give further stability to the industry. It would be another step in fostering public confidence in canned foods. This increased confidence means increased consumption of canned foods which in turn is a direct benefit to American agriculture.

Conclusions

1. The primary purpose of this proposed amendment is a protection to the consuming public.

2. No firm or association of integrity will be injured in any way if this measure becomes a law.

3. This addition to the general food laws will promote honest merchandising.

4. This amendment, if enacted, will stimulate the consumption of canned foods which, when of the proper quality, are wholesome, nutritious, dependable, economical and convenient.

5. This measure, while designed as a protection to the consumer, is at the same time of direct economic benefit to American agriculture. The sale of poor quality canned foods under deceptive labeling decreases consumption of quality merchandise and thus reduces the demand for that product which is profitable to the farmer.

Green and Wax Bean Pack in 1928

The Department of Commerce announced on January 30 that, according to data collected at the annual census of canneries, the total pack of green beans in the United States in 1928 was equivalent to 5,227,112 standard cases of No. 2 cans, an increase of 29.5 per cent as compared with 4,037,303 standard cases for 1927, and the total pack of wax beans in 1928 was equivalent to 988,208 standard cases of No. 2 cans, an increase of 54.5 per cent as compared with 639,464 standard cases for 1927. Although a number of unimportant packers failed to report, the statistics are believed to be practically complete.

The actual number of cases of green beans packed in 1928 was 4,876,725, of which 139,292 cases were of No. 1 cans (48 to the case), 3,667,496 cases were of No. 2 cans (24 to the case), 127,985 cases were of No. 2½ cans (24 to the case), 29,982 cases were of No. 3 cans (24 to the case), 849,083 cases were of No. 10 cans (6 to the case), and 62,887 cases were of cans of other sizes (6-oz., 8-oz., 11-oz., No. 1 E. O., No. 1 Tall, No. 5, No. 13, No. 55, No. 93, and No. 303) and glass jars.

The actual number of cases of wax beans packed in 1928 was 947,803, of which 40,719 cases were of No. 1 cans (48 to the case), 753,577 cases were of No. 2 cans (24 to the case), 133,936 cases were of No. 10 cans (6 to the case), and 19,571 cases were of cans of other sizes (8-oz., No. 3, No. 5. No. 93, and No. 303) and glass jars of 20 oz. and under.

The total number of reports received from establishments packing green or wax beans was 378, of which 134 showed both green and wax beans, 239 green beans only, and 5 wax beans only.

The following table presents statistics for all states for which separate figures can be given without disclosing the output of individual establishments. Some of the "Other States" however, reported larger packs of beans than certain of the states for which statistics are given.

GREEN BEANS

States	Total number of cases as reported		Equivalent total number of standard cases (a)	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Maryland	1,022,547	1,085,165	1,105,950	1,137,659
New York	737,077	642,045	799,275	692,834
Wisconsin	533,533	296,703	567,665	314,744
Pennsylvania	313,464	212,548	320,106	220,216
Michigan	290,253	166,824	311,583	180,062
Colorado	201,931	181,089	213,902	193,102
Arkansas	169,140	130,485	180,928	132,537
Tennessee	162,552	128,864	179,121	142,887
Delaware	149,476	75,580	165,492	82,772
California	145,067	113,118	157,497	121,114
Utah	146,157	127,441	152,997	132,884
Maine	141,811	99,602	149,396	105,093
Indiana	121,380	61,558	130,856	71,477
Washington	99,448	49,304	117,020	59,213
Oregon	99,136	59,374	110,649	65,471
Mississippi	64,711	97,293	69,846	105,992
Missouri	55,724	28,554	59,240	30,475
Virginia	48,497	17,696	54,481	23,742
Texas	45,270	(b)	46,474	(b)
Illinois	29,080	17,650	32,922	18,434
Oklahoma	27,190	.....	29,874	.....
Kentucky	24,174	12,499	26,780	13,697
Other States	227,987	161,662	246,208	172,898
United States	4,876,725	3,754,857	5,227,112	4,037,303

WAX BEANS

New York	344,457	181,748	353,243	192,623
Wisconsin	293,203	205,011	308,583	213,492
Michigan	129,567	67,597	138,065	72,164
Colorado	43,734	(b)	45,695	(b)
Maryland	43,852	38,795	44,974	40,274
Other States	92,938	116,886	97,828	120,711
United States	947,803	610,037	988,208	639,464

(a) Standard case contains 24 No. 2 cans.
(b) Included in "Other States" to avoid disclosing output of individual establishments.

Truck Crop Markets

Movement of vegetables and apples from northern storage was generally lighter than during mid-January, according to the U. S. Market News Service report for the week ending January 26, and the decrease for such products was not compensated by the heavier shipments of southern truck crops. Combined forwardings of the principal fruits and vegetables decreased to about 15,000 cars, compared with 16,220 the preceding week and 13,415 a year ago. Only three products—potatoes, oranges and apples—exceeded a thousand cars each. Extremely low temperatures in some of the northern and western shipping areas hindered haulings.

Sweet-potato shipments dropped slightly below 300 cars. Apple forwardings were somewhat less than the preceding week's record, and were about equally divided between East and West—approximately 880 cars from each of these two important areas.

Acreage of strawberries in Florida is about one-third greater than last season, but total commercial acreage of strawberries

in the United States probably will show a decrease of 5 per cent this year, with greatest reductions in the mid-season sections where lower prices prevailed last year.

Cabbage holdings on January 1 in six important northern and western states were much less than holdings of a year ago. Only 2,050 carloads were still on the farms, compared with 9,307 last season, while the stocks in commercial storage were 4,745 carloads as against 7,590 the year before. Holdings on January 1 last season were exceptionally heavy. Movement of new cabbage was gaining; Florida started 160 cars to market and Texas about 325. Florida's shipments were double those of a year ago.

Shipments of Florida tomatoes last week increased to 165 cars. Arrivals from Mexico were 155 cars, while Cuban tomatoes totaled 50 and Bahamas 35 carloads.

Movement of winter spinach from producing sections of Virginia was nearly completed, but it will not be long until the spring crop gets under way. Texas' shipments maintained a rather steady volume of 415 cars weekly.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Jan. 20-26 1929	Jan. 13-19 1929	Jan. 22-28 1928	Total this season to Jan. 26	Total last season to Jan. 28	Total last season
Apples, total	1,764	1,945	1,277	106,798	79,209	93,094
Eastern	892	854	573	53,931	39,235	44,415
Western	872	1,091	704	52,867	39,974	48,679
Cabbage:						
1929 season	486	382	375	1,366	1,612	36,963
1928 season	480	617	449	50,963	35,029	39,067
Carrots:						
1929 season	168	166	53	2,018	1,273	7,019
1928 season	69	64	74	7,019	5,794	6,852
Grapefruit:						
Domestic	750	741	522	10,200	8,143	16,169
Imports	4	3	32	338	1,489	2,287
Green peas:						
Domestic	8	7	8	439	328	4,680
Imports	121	127	61	356	309	987
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	861	939	570	3,174	2,802	33,254
Imports	10	11	17	61	69	419
Pears	23	38	52	23,768	18,408	18,744
Peppers	25	7	25	82	648	3,878
Spinach	439	483	313	3,737	3,098	10,373
String beans:						
Domestic	24	19	24	432	1,380	6,687
Imports	14	10	0	35	6	2
Sweet potatoes	278	303	399	14,325	17,853	23,402
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	164	119	152	933	789	30,334
Imports	239	235	160	2,082	1,477	5,423

Mexican West Coast Vegetable Crop Severely Damaged by Frost

The losses suffered by the vegetable growers on the Mexican West Coast as a result of the frost experience there on the night of January 24-25 will amount to approximately 65 per cent for tomatoes and between 25 and 30 per cent for peas, according to the latest information received from the American

Consul at Mazatlan. This estimate is based on a survey made by the Southern Pacific Railway of Mexico. The railway early in December had estimated the export movement of tomatoes for the season at 5,972 cars and of peas at 1,243 cars. The reductions from these estimates made necessary by the frost may be offset to some extent, however, by the later crops.

In the State of Sonora the frost caused a loss of 75 per cent in tomatoes and 25 per cent in peas. Before the frost the tomato crop for that State had been estimated at 691 cars and the pea crop at 1,171 cars. The pea crop will be delayed about ten days as a result of the frost. The proportion of the Sonora tomato crop that was not entirely lost as a result of the frost will be of poor quality.

Approximately 65 per cent of the tomatoes on the vine and in bloom and 50 per cent of the peas were damaged in the State of Sinaloa. There will, however, be a later crop which will be delayed about 50 days, so that the total loss for the State against the original estimates for the season will work out at about 40 per cent. The frost damage in the State extended as far south as the Culiacan River. No loss was suffered south of the Culiacan River but the crop in that area is small, about 500 cars. The original estimates for Sinaloa placed the export movement of tomatoes at 5,214 cars and of peas at 72 cars.

Japanese Beetle Quarantine Extended to Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia

The Secretary of Agriculture has announced a revision of the Japanese beetle quarantine, effective February 15, extending the regulated area and modifying the regulations governing the interstate movement of farm products, nursery stock and certain other materials, including sand, soil, earth, peat, compost and manure.

Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia are now brought under the provisions of this quarantine for the first time. New territory placed in the regulated area includes Cecil County, Maryland (except the voting district of Cecilton); the entire District of Columbia; the city of Alexandria and Arlington County, Virginia; all of Delaware north of Sussex County and the town of Milford in that county; Rye township in Perry County, Pennsylvania; and eleven townships in the southern part of New Haven County, Connecticut.

Provisions of the quarantine require inspection and certification of farm products during the summer from June 15 to Oc-

tober 15, inclusive, except that the following articles are exempted: Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes when free from soil; watermelons, dried fruits, dried vegetables, seeds, grains, mushrooms, onion sets, broomcorn, and, when used for packing articles other than fruits and vegetables, hay and straw.

Interstate movement of farm products from the District of Columbia and from the regulated part of Virginia, however, is to be unrestricted for the season 1929, owing to the slight degree of infestation in these areas.

Inspection and certification are also required for nursery, ornamental and greenhouse stock and all other plants, plant roots, cut flowers or other portions of plants for ornamental use. These restrictions on nursery and ornamental stock and other plants apply throughout the year, except that in the case of cut flowers and portions of plants without roots and incapable of propagation they are in effect only during the summer months from June 15 to October 15, inclusive. Smooth bulbs of tulip, hyacinth, gladiolus, and narcissus are completely exempted from the certification requirements throughout the year.

All sand, soil, earth, peat, compost and manure before being moved interstate from any point in the regulated area into or through any outside point must be certified, except that no restrictions are placed on the interstate movement of sand for construction purposes from the District of Columbia or from the regulated areas of Virginia.

Shippers are required to make application for inspection sufficiently in advance of the probable date of shipment, and to clean all trucks, wagons, cars, boats and other vehicles which have been used in transporting regulated articles, before they are again moved interstate after such use. During the beetle flight period in the summer, that is, from June 15 to October 15, inclusive, farm products, nursery and ornamental stock, and sand, soil, earth, peat, compost and manure moving interstate are required to be screened, covered, or otherwise protected to prevent infestation of these articles. This requirement applies to all automobiles, trucks, wagons, cars and boats hauling such articles from the regulated area to points outside.

With respect to certain isolated points of Japanese beetle spread including Hagerstown, Frederick, Cambridge, and Delmar, Maryland; Lewiston and Sayre, Pennsylvania; Hartford and New London, Connecticut; Springfield, Massachusetts, and Delmar, Delaware, no Federal order has been issued. The Secretary of Agriculture approves the policy of treating these areas

as separate control units, conditioned upon cooperation by the States concerned acceptable to the department providing for (a) nursery control under State quarantines but with Federal supervision and (b) the enforcement of clean-up operations to reduce or, if possible as to certain points, to eradicate the pest.

The clean-up operations referred to consist of soil treatment of areas known or belived to be infested with the larvae and the collection of beetles during the next summer by use of traps or by hand. The Secretary points out that under these controls the security against spread from such outlying points may be even more satisfactory than in the general area under the Japanese beetle quarantine. At the same time the benefit of active cooperation by the States, towns and individuals concerned will be secured and the clean-up program may be expected greatly to reduce the number of beetles and practically to eliminate the kind of spread which it is impossible to control with any large measure of success under quarantine regulations.

Copies of the quarantine and regulations may be secured by addressing the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Beet Pack in 1928

Statistics on the pack of beets in 1928, as compiled by the National Canners Association, were announced at the meeting of the Beet and Pumpkin Section during the Chicago convention. The following table gives the production in 1928 in cases of No. 2 cans, and comparative figures for the two preceding years:

	1926 *cases*	1927 *cases*	1928 *cases*
California	80,101	13,380	30,175
Colorado	5,010	11,960	12,895
Maryland	7,973	10,718	22,336
Michigan	60,869	37,877	57,623
New Jersey	68,511	25,886	50,390
New York	341,393	275,439	388,478
Ohio	25,630	8,734	9,127
Oregon	60,997	82,968	107,184
Utah	6,221	10,862	17,187
Washington	9,731	23,910	32,494
Wisconsin	552,872	480,785	521,071
All other States	5,858	27,738	45,617
Total	1,233,662	1,139,767	1,393,667

Bids on Canned Foods Sought

Bids are being asked for subsistence supplies for the Army Medical Center at Takoma Park, D. C., and for Fort Humphreys, Fort Myer and Fort Washington, the bids to be opened on February 25. The supplies include various kinds of canned foods. Copies of the schedules on which to submit bids (Circular 950-

29-84) may be obtained by writing to the Quartemaster Supply Officer, U. S. A., 20th and C Sts., Washington, D. C.

The Navy Department is asking for bids on 244,800 pounds of canned spinach, 87,500 pounds for delivery at Brooklyn, 59,500 pounds at Hampton Roads, and 97,800 pounds at Mare Island. Copies of schedule 386 on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Canned Meat and Sausage Pack in 1927

The 1927 pack of canned meat and canned sausage in slaughtering and meat-packing establishments is reported by the Census Bureau in its summary of the output of these establishments issued on January 30. According to this report, the pack of canned meat and canned sausage in 1927 totaled 143,196,757 pounds valued at $27,751,305, as compared with 118,576,431 pounds valued at $24,334,065 in 1925. The figures thus show an increase in the two-year period of 20.8 per cent in volume and 14 per cent in value.

Association Publishes Bulletin on Canned Salmon

In collaboration with the Western Branch Laboratory the Association has prepared and published a pamphlet on canned salmon. This bulletin, No. 105-A, is the fifth in the Association's series of popular illustrated bulletins, those previously published covering corn, peas, tomatoes and tomato products, and fruit.

Copies of Bulletin 105-A are being mailed to all members of the Association who can salmon, and will be sent to other members upon request, either to this office or to the office of the Northwest Branch Laboratory, 826 Skinner Building, Seattle, Washington.

Car Loadings

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended January 19	931,889	316,942	238,986	375,961
Preceding week	914,187	314,186	234,666	365,345
Corresponding week, 1928	854,692	209,820	243,219	431,653
Corresponding week, 1927	936,169	306,543	242,836	386,790

Cold Storage Holdings

Cold storage stocks of frozen and preserved fruits on January 1, 1929, totaled 68,709,000 pounds as compared with 53,498,000 pounds on January 1, 1928.